

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 MC-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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P 090346Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1279

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MU

SUBJECT: FMS: M203 GRENADE LAUNCHER AMMO

REF: MUSCAT 636

1. DEFENSE PROCUREMENT OFFICER CALLED PERSONALLY AT EMBASSY JULY 8 TO INQUIRE INTO STATUS OF FMS SALE OF M203 GRENADE LAUNCHER AMMUNITION TO OMANGOV (REFTEL). SAF HAD DELAYED ORDER TO COLT IN ANTICIPATION OF RECEIPT OF LOAN,BUT GIVEN SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE ITEMS NEEDED, CABLE SENT TO COLT TODAY CONFIRMING PURCHASE OF M203 AND REQUESTING DELIVERY BY EARLY SEPTEMBER.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH AMMUNITION, SUGGESTION MADE THAT, GIVEN PROBLEMS INHERENT IN COMMERCIAL SHIPMENT OF SUCH ITEMS, IT BE SHIPPED VIA US MILITARY AIRCRAFT TO UK WHERE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO TRANSSHIP TO OMAN VIA SAF AIRLIFT. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS SEEMS FEASIBLE.

3. IN MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONFIRMATION THAT FMS CASE PROCEEDING IN SUCH MANNER AS TO ASSURE ARRIVAL OF ITEMS IN OMAN DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS. IF THERE IS TO BE ANY DELAY, THIS WILL CAUSE MAR PROBLEMS FOR SAF, AND THEY SHOULD BE ALERTED TO SAME ASAP.

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